

Toppers outmuscled in loss to Spring Valley Cardinals

SPRING VALLEY — Glenwood City showed determination, focus, good special teams play, and an improved running game when it visited league-leading Spring Valley for a Dunn-St. Croix football clash last Friday.

But it wasn't enough! The Cardinals' balanced offensive attack coupled with its physicality eventually wore down the Hilltoppers and led the hosts to a 42-10 victory in the September 17 contest.

Holding a 21-10 halftime advantage over Glenwood City, Spring Valley put the game out of reach with a 21-point splurge in the final 6:38 of the third quarter while holding the Toppers scoreless in the final two quarters en route to the 32-point victory.

The Cardinals finished with 408 yards of offense. A contingent of five Spring Valley rushers totaled 235 yards and three touchdowns on 32 carries while quarterback Connor Ducklow was an efficient 9-for-12 passing for another trio of six punters and 173 yards.

The win keeps Spring Valley atop the conference standing with an unblemished 3-0 mark. The Cardinals are 4-1 in all contests. Glenwood City, meanwhile, fell for the second straight week and is currently 1-2 in the D-SC and 2-3 overall.

"I thought our focus and effort level was much improved in this game," said Shane Strong, Glenwood City head coach.

"Our kids were in position on defense to make plays all night. Credit Spring Valley for winning in space making us miss tackles or winning in coverage in the passing game," he added.

Stong also gave kudos to punter/place kicker Marcis DeSmith and running back Max Janson.

"Our kicker/punter played



HILLTOPPER defenseman Nick Hierlmeier took down Spring Valley quarterback Connor Ducklow behind the line of scrimmage to register a sack in a September 17 football contest played on the Cardinals' home turf. Spring Valley won the conference clash 42-10.

—photo by Jacob Maes Photography

very well," noted Strong. "Marcis kicked us a field goal and flipped field position a few times with some great punts."

DeSmith's 38-yard field goal as time wound down in the first half

pulled the Toppers within a 21-10 halftime deficit.

Janson was Glenwood City's leading rusher on the night. He carried a bulk of the rushing load taking 22 of the team's 38

attempts to finish with 84 of the Toppers' 129 rushing yards and their only touchdown.

"Max Janson ran with great determination Friday night," Strong stated.

Senior quarterback Bryce Wickman hit 11 of his 17 throwing attempts for 113 yards and an interception.

Much of the first quarter was played to a scoreless deadlock. But, with just 17 seconds remaining, Ducklow collaborated with Tyler Bowman on a four-yard pitch-and-catch for a touchdown, the first of three such connections between the Cardinal quarterback and receiver. Coy Stasiak added the PAT to give the hosts a 7-0 lead.

Glenwood City would tie the contest up with 8:37 left in the first half on Max Janson's five-yard dash to the end zone and a good PAT kick by DeSmith.

Spring Valley, however, would reach the end zone on its next two offensive possessions.

On a quarterback keeper, Ducklow scampered 31 yards for the score as Valley retook the lead at 7:14. Stasiak's kick made it 14-7.

Ducklow then connected with Bowman on another short touchdown pass at 2:18, this one from five yards away, as the Cardinals went ahead 21-7 following yet another good PAT kick off the foot of Stasiak.

In the closing minutes of the half, Glenwood City made its way into Spring Valley territory before the drive stalled. DeSmith came on and sent the ball through the uprights to make good on the 38-yard field goal attempt which put the score at 21-10 as the game went to intermission.

It stayed that way until midway through the third quarter when the Ducklow-Bowman gambit hit



GLENWOOD CITY placekicker Marcis DeSmith stepped into a kickoff in Spring Valley last Friday, September 17. DeSmith also booted a 38-yard field goal at the end of the first half.

—photo by Jacob Maes Photography

to the Toppers rushing total. Senior Drew Olson caught six of Wickman's 11 completions for 51 yards, Janson had three for 26 and McCarthy netted a pair for 36 yards.

Connor Ducklow was the Cardinals leading rusher with 10 hauls for 86 yards. Justin Rielly added 70 on nine carries. "We have to become more physical if we want to compete with these teams up front," concluded Strong. "Clear Lake will be physical and tough. We have to rise up to that challenge."

The Warriors will be in town this Friday as the Hilltoppers look to get back on track with a win.

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Panthers pounce on Bulldogs for conference volleyball win

BOYCEVILLE — COVID-related issues not only sidelined some of Boyceville's volleyball athletes last week but the entire coaching staff.

But, former head coach Corrie Roemhild and volunteer Kathy Joles stepped up and took the reins and led the Bulldogs into their Dunn-St. Croix opener at home against Durand last Thursday. Meanwhile first-year head coach Jenna Behrends and assistant Rochelle Olson were under quarantine due to close-contact tracing.

The Bulldogs showed some bite in the opening set as they bested the Panthers 25-16.

But, Durand flipped that script in the next two games, winning both 25-15, to go ahead two sets to one.

Boyceville jumped out to a nice lead in the fourth set going ahead by as many as eight points but Durand rallied to win the set and the September 16 match 25-21.

Libby Bygd had nine of the Bulldogs 27 kills with Ella Holden

and Lacota Brown adding five each while Hailey Hanestad had four.

Bygd also had two of Boyceville's four service aces and led with three blocks. Holden, Harper Olson, and Cambrie Reiser had two blocks each.

Ella Holden also finished with a team-high 20 digs, Torrie Bland came up with 13, Hanestad finished with a dozen, and Brown tallied nine. In the four-set contest, Boyceville finished with 68 digs.

The Bulldogs have three matches this week, all on the road. They were in Spring Valley last night, go to Prairie Farm on Thursday, and will compete in the Cameron Invitation this Saturday. Boyceville then returns home next Tuesday, September 28 to host Colfax.

SERVE RECEIVED — Senior Lacota Brown, right, is shown receiving a serve during the Bulldogs home volleyball match with Durand September 16.

—photo by Shawn DeWitt



Toppers swept by Mounders in D-SC volleyball opener

ELK MOUND — Just a week after playing a quad in Elk Mound, the Glenwood City volleyball team had to make a trip back to the Mounders' home court last Thursday, September 16 to open Dunn-St. Croix Conference play.

After falling in two sets to Elk Mound in the final round of that September 9 four-team tourney, the Hilltoppers were again swept by the Mounders, this time in three straight, as they committed several service and ball errors and had trouble hitting.

"It was a defensive heavy game with lots of touches to the ball for passing and digs," said first-year head coach Nikki Webert.

"Our hitting game wasn't high or consistent, but our passing touches were immense all around including our on-the-net game with blocks and attempted blocks," she added.

"We had a handful of serving errors and miscellaneous free ball errors that cut us short for the losses. All around, there was hard, decent volleyball played by the girls," concluded Webert.

Glenwood City lost 17-25 in the first set, 21-25 in the second and 20-25 in the third and final set.

Statistically, Aria DeSmith had three kills and a trio of serving aces for the Toppers, Amalia Draxler led the team with three blocks while Michaela Blaser finished with two and Eliza Voeltz one, Alex Peterson made 34 passes and Ellery Unser tallied five assists.

The Toppers' junior varsity lost two sets to one. After taking game one from the host Mounders 25-17, the GC JV fell by a mere two-points in the final two sets, 23-25 and 13-15.

Glenwood City's C-team, however, was victorious. Following a 17-25 loss in set one, the Hilltoppers rallied to win set two 25-18 and the third set 16-14.

Glenwood City hosted Elmwood/Plum City last night in a D-SC match before it travels to Webster this Thursday, September 23 for a triangular. The Toppers will then resume conference play next Tuesday, September 28 in Spring Valley.

GLENWOOD CITY'S Amalia Draxler (left) and Arianna DeSmith attempted to block this shot during a volleyball match in Elk Mound. —photo by Shawn DeWitt



GC harriers compete in Rice Lake, Osceola

The Glenwood City cross country teams ran on courses in Rice Lake and Osceola this past week competing in a pair of large invitationals.

The Hilltopper harriers began the week at the Rice Lake Invitational held on the UW-Eau Claire/Barron County campus last Tuesday, September 14. Both the girls' and boys' squad finished well in the small school competition with the girls taking second and the boys coming in third.

Individually, seniors Bella Simmons and Austin Nelson both finished 13th in fields that featured 185 girls runners and 195 boys runners.

Simmons and Nelson led their squads again when Glenwood City participated in the Osceola Invitational Saturday morning, September 18. The Lady Toppers came in sixth and the boys finished 11th.

"Both teams are doing well," noted Toppers' head coach Matthew Schutz.

"But the boys have to be able to bring down their times or place better among their competitors if they are looking for any kind of championship in October," he added.

Glenwood City competed in Mondovi yesterday, taking advantage of an opportunity to run on The Valley Golf Course, site of next month's Dunn-St. Croix Conference meet.

Rice Lake Invitational

Both Glenwood City teams placed high in the small school competition in the Rice Lake Invitational Tuesday, September 14.

With just five varsity runners competing, the Lady Toppers brought home the second-place plaque. The boys ran to a third place finish.

In the overall standings, the boys finished 12th with 326 points and the girls were 13th after scoring a 367. Both races featured 26 complete teams with Osceola taking the boys' team title with 92 points while the girls' championship went to Menomonie with a score of 52. Seniors Quinn McDonald of Osceola won the boys' individual title in 16:23.43 and Isabella Jacobsen from Menomonie topped the girls' field with a time of 18:07.34.

Bella Simmons topped the final standings for the GC girls running a 20:28.55 to place second in the small-school competition behind Colfax's Molly Heidorn. Simmons was 13th overall.

Senior Kendall Schutz was the girls' second runner to finish the race in Rice Lake taking home a fourth (33rd overall) after running a 21:52.84.

Freshman Elsjia Meijer, who has been showing some dramatic improvement of late, came in third for Glenwood City. She was 22nd (98th overall) in a time of 24:48.41.

Finishing right behind Meijer was senior Samantha Peterson who ran a time of 24:55.46 to place 23rd in the small-school competition (99th overall).

Haylie Hannah was the Toppers' fifth and final finisher taking 40th (148 overall) with a time of 27:38.37.

Senior Austin Nelson and junior JJ Williams finished among the top ten in the boys' small-

school standings. Nelson crossed the finish line in 17:40.42 to place fifth (13th overall) and Williams was seventh (21st) in 18:00.86.

Juniors Elek Anderson and Anthony Nelson were the next to finish. Anderson was 19th (71st) in 19:11.02 and Nelson ran a 19:36.94 to take 27th (99th).

Earning the fifth spot for the Topper boys was senior Brendan Booth who cruised to the finish line in 20:52.24 for 42nd (138th).

A pair of freshman grabbed the final two varsity finishes. Ilan Anderson was 44th (144th) in 21:07.61 and Zeb Holden placed 49th (156th) with a time of 22:09.10.

Osceola Invitational

The Topper boys had 13 runners compete in Osceola last Saturday. While senior Austin Nelson turned in another top performance taking 11th to lead Glenwood City, conspicuously absent on the placement sheet was junior JJ Williams.

Williams did not run in the Osceola Invitational due to illness according to Coach Schutz which drove up the boys' team score as they finished 11th out of 16 teams with a final tally of 241.

The Topper girls placed sixth out of 14 teams with a 193.

Bella Simmons had another outstanding race. The senior finished in 20:55.7 to place fifth.

Fellow senior Kendall Schutz followed in 14th with a time of 22:14.2.

Freshman Elsjia Meijer shaved nearly a minute off her personal best which she had set the previous Saturday in Fall Creek after running a 23:52.2 in Osceola

Operation Deer Watch now underway

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has launched Operation Deer Watch, allowing citizen scientists around Wisconsin to report deer sightings in their area, which provides crucial data for deer management.

Participation in Operation Deer Watch is simple, requires no registration and can be done using a computer or mobile device. DNR researchers ask participants to report deer sightings, including bucks, does and fawns, between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30 via an easy-to-use online form.

Data collected provides insights into the reproductive status of Wisconsin's deer herd and helps shape deer management for the state.

Many participants carry a printable tally sheet with them in the car to record sightings and then enter their results online later. For safety, participants should only record sightings when their vehicle is stopped, not while driving.

"This is a fun and useful opportunity for everyone to enjoy Wisconsin's plentiful

wildlife," said Brian Dhuey, DNR Wildlife Population and Harvest Assessment Specialist. "The DNR encourages everyone interested in deer, from hunters and trappers to outdoor enthusiasts, to take part."

County Deer Advisory Councils also use data from the survey to develop deer season framework, harvest quotas and permit level recommendations.

Learn more about Operation Deer Watch by visiting <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/summerdeer.html>

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An Outdoorsman's Journal

A column by Mark Walters

Salmon in a Canoe

Hello friends,
As many of you are aware I enjoy doing outdoor related sports in a canoe. This fall no one in my inner circle has a bear tag so a week where I am usually hunting bear or helping someone to harvest a black bear is open. Two weeks ago I made the decision that I was going to head over to Lake Michigan and try to catch a salmon out of my canoe and that is what this column is about.

Thursday, September 9th High 77, low 53
I chose Sheboygan to be my fishing grounds and I have to admit I was very excited to attempt to tussle with the salmon of my fantasy world while being pulled around on the big lake. Now here is some reality, behind the scenes, facts.

Upon arriving at the landing and marina at Sheboygan I realized that I had forgotten my salmon tackle box "flasher flyspoons." I could not find my headlamp and the big reality; you have to pull hard on a kayak paddle 100-percent of the time to have your lure putting out the right presentation to get a salmon or trout to strike it.

So, it is like 2:00 pm and I am at a boat landing so I could take my time rigging my canoe with rod holders a propane light setup and laying everything out so I can net or gaff a fish and ride out high seas. This style of fishing which I have never witnessed with another person in a canoe is suicidal, death to your knees. I straddle a cooler like riding a horse and my knees pretty much hold me up and ride out each wave.

Fishermen that are coming from fishing always talk to and give me good info because they see me as zero threat. I spoke with one fella that had caught about an 8-pound rainbow trout and he actually gave it to me. Thoughts went through my mind, couple of pics of "my trophy", a vivid imagination and I could live another day. In all honesty, not one time in 32 years have I lied in this column, and I was not going to start today.

So, the rainbow stays in a cooler at the truck, and I begin paddling an pulling crankbaits. One is a Rebel double jointed, orange crankbait that was just given to me while I was in Canada by my good buddy Pete Hagedorn who is 83 and giving away some of his gear.

In the end I am pulling two die! Sunset

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